

REMARKS

On consideration of the claims of this pending application, Applicant submits the above Preliminary Amendment.

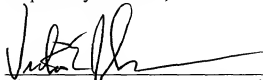
Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 4 being the independent claims. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Docket No. 33528/US/RFT/VEJ).

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Victor E. Johnson, Reg. No. 41,546 for
Richard F. Trecartin, Reg. No. 31,801
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DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 3400
San Francisco, CA 94111-4187
Telephone: (415) 781-1989 Facsimile: (415) 398-3249